

24451 to 24575—Continued.

24452 to 24456. *MEDICAGO FALCATA* L.

24452. "(No. 66.) The main lot of western Siberian alfalfa gathered growing wild on the open steppe, with the help of 200 peasants, a few miles from Obb, Tomsk Province, where the Obi River crosses the Siberian railway. One of the most characteristic and dominant plants of the open steppes in Tomsk Province, western Siberia. The falcate or sickle-shaped pods of this alfalfa give it the specific name *falcata*. A long-lived perennial, with strong, deep-growing taproots, holding its own with other native plants in dense sod and enduring pasturing. Highly regarded by the peasants as a pasture plant and for hay. Cattle, horses, and sheep are all fond of the plant. Worthy of thorough trial in all regions where the common alfalfa suffers from winterkilling. Where common alfalfa, which is native of a much milder climate than that of our Prairie Northwest, is perfectly hardy, I would suggest 'Let well enough alone.' However, it will be well to remember that this plant, while primarily intended for the severest regions, endures more pasturing than common alfalfa, and may be found valuable to introduce into native pastures as a wild plant farther south. Plant breeders should be quick to isolate the elementary species in *Medicago falcata* and to remember that the many different lots of *Medicago falcata* gathered in my second and third trips to Siberia should be carefully kept separate. The most southern lots should go more into the Central West, the northern lots into the most northern sections. The species varies in its native haunts and should be regarded as consisting of many elementary species, differing widely in important characteristics. The yellow flowers are attractive and much visited by bees." (*Hansen.*)

24453. "(No. 90.) As found wild on open steppe at Omsk, Akmolinsk Province, western Siberia. See No. 66 (S. P. I. No. 24452)." (*Hansen.*)

24454. "(No. 86.) See No. 66 (S. P. I. No. 24452). This lot is from north of Irkutsk, near western shore of Lake Baikal, eastern Siberia, and extending to a hundred miles north, among the Buriats, a Mongolian tribe. This region is moister in climate than farther east on the open steppe, so may be found better adapted for regions like northern Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin." (*Hansen.*)

24455. "(No. 28.) One of the three yellow-flowered Siberian alfalfas. This seed was gathered on the east bank of the Irtysh River about ten miles north of Semipalatinsk, in the province of the same name, western Siberia. Plants with stems 5 feet 8 inches long were found. Of erect habit. Both as growing in the wild pasture and as hay the plant is well liked by stock. The plant is also much visited by bees." (*Hansen.*)

24456. "(No. 58.) Although but a small quantity of seed, this number should receive special attention, as it is from the farthest point east where I found this Siberian alfalfa. Seed gathered in almost pure sand at station Charonte, in an arm of the Desert Gobi, a few miles from Chinese territory on the Siberian railway. This is in the Mongolian part of Manchuria, Manchuria proper not beginning till after crossing the Chinese mountains. This region is marked by great extremes of heat and cold, and especially by the fact that often cold sufficient to freeze mercury is experienced with no snow on the ground." (*Hansen.*)

Distribution.—A native of Europe and Asia, extending from Sweden to China.